

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for protecting against packet losses in packet-oriented data transmission, comprising:
 - storing n data packets in a memory together with end-of-packet information;
 - transmitting the data packets from a transmitter to a receiver with an item of end-of-packet information in each data packet;
 - converting at the transmitter, after said transmitting of the data packets, redundant packets into n equal-sized redundant packets, each having a length equal to a longest one of the data packets, by filling with known padding data;
 - transmitting the equal-sized redundant packets;
 - obtaining reproduced data packets from the data packets and the end-of-packet information received from the transmitter by the receiver, if no packet has been lost during transmission;
 - converting, if at least one packet is lost during the transmission and this error is correctable, all received data packets into equal-sized reconstructed data packets, by filling with the known padding data; and
 - obtaining at the receiver, if at least one lost packet is not received and this error is correctable, the reproduced data packets from the equal-sized reconstructed data packets, the end-of-packet information and at least one equal-sized redundant packet received from the transmitter to replace the at least one lost packet.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end-of-packet information is provided by stating the packet length in the respective packet header.
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the end-of-packet information is provided by a flag byte at the end of each data packet.
4. The method as claimed in claim 3,
 - wherein, if no packet was lost, the reproduced data packets are obtained by removing the flag byte, and
 - wherein, if at least one packet was lost and this error can be corrected, the reproduced data packets are obtained from the equal-sized reconstructed data packets and the

at least one equal-sized redundant packets by removing the flag byte and any subsequent padding data.

5. An apparatus for protecting against packet losses in packet-oriented data transmission, comprising:

a transmitter to form and transmit data packets with end-of-packet information prior to generating redundant packets; and

a receiver to receive the data packets from said transmitter, remove the end-of-packet information and, only if a data packet was lost during transmission and this error can be reconstructed, expand the data packets with the aid of padding information to form equally long data packets before the end-of-packet information is removed.